

## Message Text

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SUBJ: ETHIOPIA-SOMALI TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

OCTOBER STAR, JUNE 11 CARRIED EDITORIAL RELATING TO ETHIOPIA-SOMALI TERRITORIAL DISPUTE TITLED " "OUR ENEMIES ARE FURTHER AFIELD," FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S ARRIVAL OF NIGERIAN PRESIDENT GENERAL GOWON, OAU CHAIRMAN AND HEAD OF EIGHT NATION CONCILIATORY COMMITTEE CHOSEN TO INVESTIGATE THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALI TERRITORIAL DISPUTE.

EXCERPTS AS FOLLOWS: (BEGIN EXCERPTS): PRESIDENT GOWON'S STATEMENT THAT GENERAL SIYAD AND EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE OF ETHIOPIA ARE SINCERE MEN IS NO DOUBT TRUE. BOTH MEN ARE AFRICANISTS. BY IMPLICATION, WHATEVER THE CYNICS WOULD SAY, NEITHER SOMALIA NOR ETHIOPIA WANTS TO PICK A QUARREL. UNFORTUNATELY THEY HAVE A DIFFICULT PROBLEM ON THEIR HANDS. IT IS NOT OF THEIR MAKING.

SOMALIA HAS CALLED ON AFRICAN STATESMANSHIP TO INTERVENE. FURTHERMORE, THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAS REPEATEDLY DECLARED THAT IT WOULD ABIDE BY AFRICAN OPINION AS REPRESENTED BY THE EIGHT-NATION COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH THE TASK ON THE OCCASION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU. THAT DECLARATION REMAINS TRUE.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC WOULD PICK UP ARMS AGAINST A FELLOW AFRICAN STATE ARE SEVERELY LIMITED...

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ALL THE SAME, THE SOMALI TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA

IS A BURNING ISSUE...ONLY THE TWO PARTIES IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED  
KNOW THE RAW NERVES IT TOUCHES. THAT IS WHY PRESIDENT GOWON  
IS CORRECT IN SAYING THAT, IN THE LAST RESPORT, ONLY THEY  
CAN RESOLVE THE ISSUE. THAT IS A CLINICAL ASSESSMENT.

RESOLUTION OF SUCH SUBJECTIVE ISSUES IS EFFECTED WITHER  
ACROSS THE CONFERENCE TABLE OR ACROSS THE FIRING RANGE.  
SOMALIA OPTS FOR THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE. WE TRUST ETHIOPIA WILL  
RECIPROCATE. IF AFRICAN SOLIDARITY HAS MEANT ANYTHING OVER  
THE PAST FOURTEEN YEARS, IT MUST SURELY BE THAT AFRICAN  
STATES CAN RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AMICABLY.

PRESIDENT SIYAD SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS, "WE SHALL NEVER,  
WILLINGLY, LEVEL OUR GUNS IN THE DIRECTION OF A FELLOW AFRICAN  
STATE. AFRICANS, BY DEFINITION, ARE NOT ENEMIES. OUR ENEMIES  
ARE FURTHER AFIELD."

SOMALIA WILL EXPLORE ALL VENUES TO REACH A PEACEFUL  
SETTLEMENT BE IT THROUGH NEGOTIATION OR ARBITRATION. END  
EXCERPTS.

MACK

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